THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The laws of the land offer adequate protection to all persons including tourists in India. However, the Governments of Kerala, J and K, Rajasthan, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have set-up Tourist Police Force for the facility of the tourists at important tourist destinations. Government of Delhi, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Chandigarh are in the process of setting up of Tourist Police Force. Some of the States/UTs *e.g.* Mizoram, Daman and Diu, Assam, Sikkim, Pondicherry, Lakshadweep have not felt the necessity of a separate Tourist Police Force and have instructed the regular police force to look into safety and security of the tourists.

Soft loans by Japan for conservation of cultural heritage and tourism

4765. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Japan has agreed to extend a major package of official development assistance to India in form of soft loans for seven projects in preservation of environment and conservation of cultural heritage and tourism;

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement;

(c) whether any details of the projects relating to tourism has been finalized; and

(d) if so, the total amount provided and the steps taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) Japan Bank for International Cooperation has recently approved Official Development Assistance of approximately Rs. 4417 crores to India for seven projects including only one project from the tourism sector, namely Ajanta-Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project (II).

(b) The rate of interest and the repayment period for the loans for environmental related projects is 0.75% per annum and 40 years respectively. For the loans for other projects, the interest rate and the repayment period are 1.8% per annum and 30 years respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir. The details of tourism projects have been finalized and report prepared for implementation.

(d) The total amount of loan for the tourism project is Yen 7,331 million. The project is proposed to be completed by end of June, 2008 and the scope of work

in Ajanta-Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project Phase-II is as follows :—

Scope of Work	Base Cost (Million Yen)	Deadline
Monuments Conservation	901	December, 2007
Improvement of Aurangabad Airport	1,487	March, 2007
Afforestation	35	March, 2007
Improvement of roads	454	March, 2008
Water Supply at Tourist Attractions	120	March, 2005
Tourist Complex	1,303	June, 2008
Public Awareness Activities	739	March, 2008
Human Resource Development	23	June, 2006
Computerisation of Tourist Information	44	June, 2006
Microcredit	12	June, 2008
Lonar Conservation and Development	62	December, 2006
State Archaeological Monuments	22	December, 2006
Additional sub-projects in vicinity of Buddhist caves circuit	580	June, 2007
Contingency	661	—
Consulting Services	413	June, 2008
Interest During Construction	475	—
TOTAL	7,331	

Historical and Cultural sites

†4766. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' :
SHRI LAJPAT RAI :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that old historical and cultural sites in the country are maintained by 'ASI';

(b) if so, the total number thereof;

(c) whether some of these sites have also been opened for worship;

(d) if so, the number of such sites in which worship has been allowed; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.